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THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISAMI GOUNDER :—" (a) & (b) Representations have been received by the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies from the ex-tappers of Belur village and the matter is under consideration."

Grant given to the Indian Students' Union and Hostel.

* 889 Q.—SRI K. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) where the Indian Students' Union and Hostel are located;

(b) for what purpose is a grant given annually to this hostel by the Government; and

(c) what are the conditions attached to that grant?

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" (a) In London.

" (b) & (c) An annual grant of Rs. 3,000 is paid by this Government to this institution subject to the conditions that the grant is devoted entirely to meet the expenses of the Hostel and that a duly audited statement of receipts and expenditure of the institution for each year is forwarded to this Government for information."

Assignment of land to the Pudukkottai Livestock Farm for grazing purposes.

* 890 Q.—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Pudukkottai Livestock Farm has applied for the assignment of 500 acres for use as grazing ground of the farm cattle;

(b) if so, when and in what area; and

(c) the present stage of the requests?

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" (a) & (b) The Director of Animal Husbandry reported in February 1953 that he had provisionally selected about 500 acres of land in Kaspa forest area at Pudukkottai for the purpose of the Livestock farm.

" (c) The Director has reported that the small tank in the selected site would not yield sufficient water and therefore requested to sanction necessary expenditure for conducting trial borings with a view to sink sufficient number of wells in the area. He has been asked to furnish in consultation with the Chief Conservator of Forests further particulars. His reply is awaited."

Water-supply scheme to Penukonda town.

* 891 Q.—SRI T. LAKSHMINARAYANA REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the drinking water-supply scheme has been sanctioned to Penukonda town;

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(*b*) if so, why it is not implemented; and

(*c*) what is the amount spent on this scheme?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) The investigation of water-supply scheme for the Penukonda Panchayat was sanctioned in July 1949.

" (*b*) The investigation has been completed and the question of sanctioning the preparation of detailed plans and estimates is now under consideration. The execution of the scheme will be taken up after the detailed plans and estimates are prepared and sanctioned by the Government.

" (*c*) An expenditure of Rs. 2,618 exclusive of centage charges has been incurred on the investigation of the scheme."

Rates charged by licensees for distributing electricity.

* 892 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether all the licensees for distributing electricity are charging uniform rate; and

(*b*) if the rate is not uniform, the different rates charged by each and the reasons for the same?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

" (*b*) Each licensee has got a graded system of rates for power supplied for different purposes and information regarding these rates is available in the respective official booklets published by the licensees.

" The rates differ for the following reasons :—

(1) The rates at which the licensees purchase energy for distribution, from the Government Electricity Department vary with the quantum of offtake, load factor, etc., as also with each system both thermal and Hydro-Electric, etc., from which the supply is made.

(2) An undertaking with a purely urban load has to put up only short lines and each line feeds a number of consumers and so fetches the maximum revenue for the minimum capital expenditure. So, it can afford to sell energy at lower rates than another undertaking whose consumers are both rural and urban and which has to put up long lines to feed the scattered rural loads and so has an income which is comparatively small compared to the capital cost of the works.

(3) Under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, the licensee is allowed a certain reasonable return on his capital investment and if the clear profit of the licensee for any year exceeds the said reasonable return, he has to reduce his rates and if the said clear profit falls short of the reasonable returns, he can increase his rates, without reference to Government."